

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIE-00 CPR-02 SAM-01 /088 W

----- 064030

O R 201111Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9513

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4612

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT: FRANCO'S ILLNESS

1. ACCORDING TO GOS SOURCES, CONFIRMED BY THIS MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS, FRANCO'S CONDITION MORNING OF JULY 20 HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY OVERNIGHT AFTER YESTERDAY'S DETERIORATION. MEDICAL BULLETIN ISSUED 8:30 PM JULY 19 ON FRANCO'S CONDITION STATED THAT "ACUTE HEMATOMESIS" THAT FRANCO SUFFERED IN EARLY HOURS OF JULY 19 WAS CHECKED BY TREATMENT AND "PHYSIOLOGICAL CONSTANTS HAVE REMAINED AT ALL TIMES WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS." ACCORDING TO AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER ARIAS NAVARRO, FRANCO'S WIFE HAD SEEN HIM AT HOSPITAL THIS MORNING AND REPORTED THAT HEMORRHAGING WAS UNDER CONTROL, THAT FRANCO'S APPEARANCE WAS BETTER, AND THAT HE WAS WALKING AROUND HOSPITAL ROOM. PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE ADDED THAT, WHILE FRANCO OF COURSE IN VERY WEAK STATE, SOME WALKING ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN PROPER CIRCULATION. HE COMMENTED THAT MEDICAL

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DILEMMA FOR DOCTORS IS TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE CIRCULATION

WITHOUT HAVING TO APPLY DOSAGES OF ANTICOAGULANTS THAT MIGHT PROVOKE COMPLICATIONS.

2. NEITHER MEDICAL TEAM ATTENDING FRANCO NOR GOVT HAS RELEASED FULL DETAILS OF YESTERDAY'S CRISIS OR TREATMENT APPLIED TO COPE WITH IT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS SEVERE INTESTINAL HEMORRHAGING, PROVOKED BY ANTI-COAGULANT DRUG, BEGAN MORNING OF JULY 19. ONE PRESS REPORT STATES FRANCO ACTUALLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCE, BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS WERE ADMINISTERED. PRIME MINISTER' AIDE TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT ARIAS, WHO TRAVELED BETWEEN PRESIDENCY AND HOSPITAL SEVERAL TIMES DURING COURSE OF DAY AND HAD TO TRUNCATE SCHEDULED CABINET MEETING, HAD TOLD HIS ASSOCIATES TO BE PREPARED FOR WORST AND THAT CONTINGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH HAD ALREADY BEEN DRAFTED. SAME SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT FRANCO HIMSELF, WITHOUT PRESSURES FROM ANYONE, HAD MADE DECISION TO TRANSFER POWERS OF CHIEF OF STATE TO JUAN CARLOS, ADDING THAT FRANCO HAD GIVEN IMPRESSION TO CLOSEST ASSOCIATES WITHIN GOVT THAT HE FULLY REALISTIC ABOUT HIS CONDITION AND HIS IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS. PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE VOICED PERSONAL OPINION, WHICH WAS EXPRESSED BY MILITARY AIDE TO JUAN CARLOS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DEFENSE ATTACHE, THAT JUAN CARLOS NOW LIKELY TO REMAIN CHIEF OF STATE PERMANENTLY.

3. ACCORDING TO DGS SOURCES, DGS HAS RESUMED ALERT AND ON JULY 19 TRANSMITTED BULLETIN TO ALL SENIOR DGS OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT SPAIN THAT FRANCO IN GRAVE CONDITION. DGS DIRECTOR CANCELLED EVENING APPOINTMENT WITH LEGATT JULY 19 BECAUSE OF FRANCO'S CONDITION. MODEST INCREASE OF POLICE GUARDS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND KEY INSTALLATIONS HAS BEEN NOTICED AND SOME TROOPS ARE REPORTEDLY BEING RETAINED IN BARRACKS OVER WEEK END.

4. PRESS HAS UNDERSTANDABLY GIVEN BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT TO PRINCE'S ASSUMPTION OF CHIEF OF STATE'S POWERS. SOME MADRID AND BARCELONA PAPERS PUBLISHED EXTRAS. MADRID PAPERS HAVE RUN EXTENSIVE MATERIAL ON PRINCE'S BIOGRAPHY, HIS PREPARATION FOR THE SUCCESSION
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AND HIS PAST STATEMENTS ON SPAIN'S FUTURE. SEVERAL EDITORIALS IM MADRID PAPERS HAVE ECHOED OR TAKEN THEIR TONE FROM EDITORIAL RUN PREVIOUS EVEINNG BY GOVT-CONTROLLED RADIO AND TV WHICH HAILED FRANCO FOR LEAVING QUESTION OF SUCCESSION "WELL TIED DOWN" AND FOR HIS SELFLESSNESS AND PRUDENCE IN PUTTING INTEREST OF SPAIN AHEAD OF HIS OWN. NOT ALL PAPERS, HOWEVER, STRESSED POINT OF RADIO-TV EDITORIAL THAT TRANSFER OF

POWERS UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF ORGANIC LAW ARE "OF A TRANSITORY NATURE AND REVOCABLE AT END OF ILLNESS". CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "YA" SAW TRANSFER OF POWERS AS EXCELLENT TEST FOR FUTURE, SINCE THINGS WILL BEGIN TO WORK RIGHT AWAY AS THEY MUST INEVITABLY SOME DAY. "YA" EMPHASIZED THAT TURNOVER IS NOT A SIMPLE "DELEGATION" OF FUNCTIONS AND THAT INTERIM CHARACTER OF JUAN CARLOS POWERS MUST NOT MEAN INHIBITION OR PARALYSIS OF ACTIVITIES.

5. MEDICAL BULLETIN BROADCAST AT 1:00 PM MADRID TIME JULY 20 STATES THAT HEMORRHAGE REMAINS UNDER CONTROL, THAT FRANCO NOW TAKING NOURISHMENT ORALLY, AND THAT BLOOD PRESSURE AND OTHER VITAL SIGNS ARE NORMAL.
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